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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: )  
Mua et al. )  
 )  
Serial No.: to be determined )  
Filed: to be determined )  
 )  
Earliest Priority Filing Date: 09 September 2002 )  
International Filing Date: 28 August 2003 )  
PCT Application No.: PCT/US2003/027087 )  
 )  
For: A PROCESS FOR REDUCING NITROGEN )  
CONTAINING COMPOUNDS AND LIGNIN IN )  
TOBACCO )

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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Preliminary Amendment 'A'

Dear Sirs:

Enclosed is a Preliminary Amendment for the application referenced above. Please amend the application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 3 of this paper.